

***NJDHSS Communicable Disease Service Weekly
Statewide Influenza Activity Summary***

Week Ending November 26, 2004

Influenza level of activity: “NO ACTIVITY”

Influenza testing performed by the Public Health and Environmental Laboratories from November 1, 2004 to present:

- Number of influenza A culture confirmed case: None
- Number of influenza B culture confirmed case: None

This week, the NJDHSS Communicable Disease Service has not been notified of any outbreak or increased influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in any health care and long-term care facilities and schools throughout the state. Data collected from all surveillance activities reconfirms the **“NO ACTIVITY”** level this week.

The surveillance parameters are within the same baseline, when compared with the same period last season. A few of the county percentage parameters showed figures well above the total average (see 23Nov04 Pdf table), but should not be interpreted as an increased level of activity since the denominator is very small.

Reports from long-term care facilities of ILI since the season began remain around the 1.05% to 1.63% range. No facility has reported any laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.

Rates of school absenteeism and emergency department reports remained stable. Hospital laboratory surveillance for respiratory syncytial virus (often clinically indistinguishable from influenza virus infection) is starting to show an upward trend as we move later into the season.

According to the CDC nationwide flu report for week 45 (week ending November 13, 2004) one state reported widespread influenza activity; New York City and one state reported regional activity; and 32 states and the District of Columbia reported sporadic activity. Sixteen states including New Jersey reported no activity.

These activity levels were based upon laboratory culture-confirmed cases, and the CDC has antigenically characterized nine influenza A (H3N2) viruses and two influenza B virus. These isolates were characterized as A/Fujian/411/2002-like (H3N2), and B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, which were the influenza A and B components recommended for the 2004-05-influenza vaccine

Influenza virus infection itself is not a clinical or laboratory reportable disease according to N.J.A.C. 8:57. Accordingly, activity levels must be extrapolated from weekly monitoring activities of healthcare facilities and providers dispersed around the state.

NJDHSS continues to make progress in making vaccine available to high priority individuals in the state. NJDHSS and LTCF- representative organizations have finalized vaccine allocation and distribution plans for nursing home and assisted living facilities. The majority of the orders have been submitted to the CDC, with the shipment of vaccine expected no later than December 19, 2004.

References and Resources:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.
- <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/>